

Wisconsin Senior Employment Program (WISE) OVERVIEW

Purpose

WISE is an acronym which stands for **W**ISCONSIN **S**ENIOR **E**MPLOYMENT. The Wisconsin Senior Employment Program is also known as the Senior Community Services Employment Program or Title V. It is a training for employment program through community service activities for older persons and is funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965. The Older Americans Act provides other known services for older persons such as the Home-delivered Meal Program, Caregiver Support Program, Benefit Specialist Program, et al.

The Wisconsin Senior Employment Program provides useful part-time opportunities in community service activities for unemployed, low-income persons who are 55 years of age or older who have poor employment prospects. The program fosters individual economic self-sufficiency and strives to move job-ready persons participating into unsubsidized employment.

The Wisconsin Senior Employment Program is not to be construed as permanent but rather “temporary” employment through community service training. This program is designed to teach the participant, new and marketable skills so that they may enter and be competitive in today’s job market.

The Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources contracts with private, non-profit agencies to provide the legislatively mandated services. The “project” agencies are:

Advocap, Inc., serving Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Winnebago counties.

Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, serving Calumet, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Waushara, and Wood counties.

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc., serving Brown, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, Marinette, Oconto, Sauk, and Waukesha counties.

Interfaith Older Adult Programs, serving Milwaukee county.

Southwest Workforce Development Board, serving Crawford, Green, Iowa, LaFayette, and Rock counties.

Workforce Connections, Inc., serving Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, Pierce, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Wood counties.

There are also 4 National grantees who also administer the Senior Community Services Employment Program. They are: Experience Works, National Indian Council on Aging, Senior Service America, Inc., and SER-Jobs for Progress.

For more information on counties served call Monica Snittler, Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, (608) 267-9097 or email at monica.snittler@wisconsin.gov.

Goal

The goal of the Bureau of Aging & Disability Resources is to assist the older job seeker in reaching his or her employment potential through various resources available from the WISE Program. From this perspective, the WISE Program is a means to provide older job seekers

with the skills, training, and experience necessary for obtaining gainful, meaningful employment and the opportunity for self-sufficiency.

Eligibility Requirements

Participants in the WISE Program (as well as National grantees) must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be 55 years of age and older.
- Unemployed
- Family income at or below 125% of poverty.
- A resident of Wisconsin.
- Priority is given to older adults who are 65 years of age and older; and has a disability, limited English proficiency or low literacy skills, resides in a rural area, a veteran, has low employment prospects, failed to find employment through WIA or the one-stop, frail, and is homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

The project coordinator can determine if someone you know is eligible to participate in the program.

Frequently Asked Questions?

What is a Host Agency or Community Service Assignment?

A host agency or work site is a non-profit (501(c)(3)) or governmental agency/organization agreeing to serve as a work or training site for one or more participants.

These agencies agree to provide a safe, healthy, drug-free workplace, treating each participant as a valued worker. They provide adequate orientation, training and supervision, and encourage and assist the participant in his/her ongoing job search and may in some instances, hire the participant for permanent employment. These agencies may also work with an organization that has a position available that a participant can be referred to.

The host agency benefits from the valuable service the participants contribute to their organization. Because the host agency IS NOT the participant's employer, their responsibility is primarily limited to work site supervision.

What is a Community Service Assignment?

Community Service Assignments (CSA) are positions within the host agency that provide program participants practical training and valuable work experience consistent with their employment objective, and contribute to the general welfare of the community. These positions are part-time, temporary and typically are 20 hours per week. Participants working in a CSA are paid the federal minimum wage.

How long do Community Service Assignments last?

Participants are placed in community service assignments through a host agency for a period of time that is determined by the project coordinator. Duration in the WISE Program is based on the Individual Employment Plan and can vary depending on the time needed to learn new skills and the required training needed.

If a non-profit organization/agency is interested in becoming a host agency contact the project coordinator in your county to determine if you qualify.

SCSEP ORGANIZATION	COUNTIES SERVED
<p style="text-align: center;">Advocap, Inc. Jean Hickey, OW Coordinator 2929 Harrison St. Oshkosh, WI 54901 (800) 323-0150; (920) 922-7760 Fax: (920) 426-3071 jeanh@advocap.org</p>	<p>Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Winnebago</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fox Valley Workforce Development Board Ana Rivera, OW Coordinator 1401 McMahon Dr. Neenah, WI 54956 (920) 968-6316 arivera@fwddb.com</p>	<p>Calumet, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Waushara, Wood</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. Russell Gruner, OW Coordinator Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources Older Worker Program, Dane County Job Center 1819 Aberg Ave., Suite C Madison, WI 53704 (608) 242-4897; Toll-free: (888) 810-1279 Fax: (608) 242-4917 Russell.gruner@gwaar.org And Carol Ermo, OW Coordinator Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources 2900 Curry Lane, Ste. C Green Bay, WI 54311 (920) 469-8858 Carol.ermo@gwaar.org</p>	<p>Brown, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, Marinette, Oconto, Sauk, and Waukesha</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Inc. Barbara Smith, Manager-OW Program 600 W. Virginia St., Suite 300 Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 291-7500, Ext. 233 Fax: (414) 291-7510 bsmith@interfaithmilw.org</p>	<p>Milwaukee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Southwest Workforce Development Board Harold Luther, OW Coordinator Rock County Job Center 1900 Center Ave. Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 741-3567 Fax: (608) 741-3429 h.luther@jobcenter.org</p>	<p>Crawford, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Rock</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Workforce Connections, Inc. Judith Rogness, OW Coordinator 402 N. 8th St., 3rd Floor LaCrosse, WI 54602 (608) 789-5606 (Judi) (608) 789-5508 (Vicki Miller) Fax: (608) 789-5620 rognessj@workforceconnections.org</p>	<p>Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, Pierce, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Wood</p>

SCSEP ORGANIZATION	COUNTIES SERVED
<p><u>FOR ALL OTHER COUNTIES CONTACT:</u> Department of Health Services Division of Long Term Care Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources Monica Snittler Senior Employment Program Coordinator 1 W. Wilson St., Rm. 450 P.O. Box 7850 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 267-9097 Fax: (608) 267-3203 monica.snittler@wisconsin.gov</p>	<p>For counties not listed above contact Monica Snittler for a referral.</p>